

claims

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1. A diagnostic method for identifying and delineating cancerous epithelial tissue, comprising:

(a) applying rhodamine to the epithelium, to selectively mark cancerous tissue; and

(b) visually examining said epithelium, to identify and delineate suspected cancerous tissue sites, by comparing the color of the suspected sites with the color of the adjacent tissue.

*in vivo
or
in vitro
technique*

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2. In a method for in vivo detection of premalignant epithelial lesions and carcinomas, including the steps of sequentially

rinsing the epithelium with dye stain composition which is selectively retained by cancerous and precancerous tissue, wherein the stain composition consists essentially of toluidine blue O, and

rinsing the epithelium with a rinse composition for removing unretained stain composition,

the improvement in which the stain composition comprises rhodamine.

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3. A biological stain composition for in vivo detection of cancerous and precancerous tissue, comprising

- (a) rhodamine,
- (b) a pharmaceutically acceptable aqueous solvent, and
- (c) a pharmaceutically acceptable oxidizing agent for leuco rhodamine.